

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PRESS INCIDENT AT PRESIDENT NIXON-SPINOLA
MEETING AT LAJES

SUMMARY. PRESS TREATMENT OF AZORES MEETING GENERALLY
POSITIVE, THOUGH MANY REPORTS EMPHASIZED EXCESSIVE
SECURITY MEASURES AND PRESS INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED BEFORE
PRESIDENTS MET ON JUNE 19. ALSO, CONSIDERABLE
SPECULATION ON LAJES BASE AS SUBJECT OF CONVERSATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. APPROXIMATELY FIFTY LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS ACCREDITED BY PORTUGUESE FOR AZORES
MEETING OF PRESIDENTS. GROUP COMPOSED MOSTLY OF
PORTUGUESE WITH SPRINKLING OF FOREIGN PRESS
INCLUDING FOUR EASTERN EUROPEANS TRAVELED ABOARD
PRESIDENTIAL PLANE WITH OFFICIAL PARTY. EMBASSY
INFORMATION OFFICER JACOBSEN ACCOMPANIED GROUP AT
INVITATION OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

2. ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT WAS MORNING OF JUNE 19
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IMMEDIATELY BEFORE SCHEDULED MEETING OF TWO PRESIDENTS

WHEN LAST OF THREE BUSES CARRYING PORTUGUESE PRESS ARRIVED LATE AT TRAFFIC CHECKPOINT AFTER SPINOLA MOTORCADE HAD PASSED AND BEFORE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT NIXON MOTORCADE. TRAFFIC WAS STOPPED. JOINT PORTUGUESE-U.S. INSTRUCTION WAS THAT ALL TRAFFIC WOULD BE STOPPED ALONG ROUTE BETWEEN ARRIVAL OF THE TWO MOTORCADES. PRESS BUS PULLED OUT INTO ONCOMING LANE AND PROCEEDED PAST HALTED VEHICLES UNTIL STOPPED BY PORTUGUESE GUARD AT INTERSECTION. U.S. AIR POLICEMAN BLOCKED LANE IN FRONT OF BUS WITH STATION WAGON. PORTUGUESE PRESS MEMBERS BECAME EXCITED, MANY GETTING OFF THE BUS, SHOUTING EPITHETS AT THE POLICEMEN. ("WE WILL SHOW THE PORTUGUESE HOW THE AMERICANS TREAT US LIKE DIRT*") AFTER NIXON MOTORCADE PASSED, THE ROADBLOCK WAS LIFTED AND THE BUS WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

3. DELAYED PRESS MEMBERS ARRIVED AT PRESIDENTIAL MEETING SITE 15 MINUTES LATE AND Madder THAN HOPS. PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT RONALD ZIEGLER ASSUAGED FEELINGS OF PHOTOGRAPHERS BY ARRANGING SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SESSION AT END OF PRESIDENTIAL MEETING, ALSO FACILITATED ENTRY OF PORTUGUESE TO PRESS AREA WHEN DECISION MADE TO COME INDOORS OUT OF THE WIND FOR PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS.

4. INFLUENTIAL DIARIO DE NOTICIAS HEADLINED UNDER PHOTO OF TWO PRESIDENTS "PRESIDENT ANTONIO DE SPINOLA RECEIVES RICHARD NIXON IN THE AZORES-FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS EMPHASIZED IN THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MARTINHO SIMOES SPECULATED THAT THE LAJES BASE WOULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TAKEN UP IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, POINTING OUT THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AND OPINING THAT "THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT DISPOSED TO GIVE AWAY THIS SOURCE OF UNDENIABLE VALUE (READ "BASE") OR SUBJECT THE COUNTRY TO DISAGREEABLE EXTERNAL CONSEQUENCES (READ "OIL EMBARGO") ALREADY EXPERIENCED SEVERAL TIMES FOR A RIDICULOUS PAYMENT."

5. LARGE CIRCULATION MORNING DAILY O SECULO OF JUNE 20
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ALSO CARRIES PHOTO OF PRESIDENTS AND HEADLINES "AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE AZORES, PORTUGAL CONSIDERS THE FUTURE." O PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO, PORTO MORNING DAILY, DEVOTES OVER HALF OF FRONT PAGE TO REPORT OF VISIT. BANNER HEADLINES "NIXON AND SPINOLA" ACCOMPANY PHOTOS.

6. JUNE 19 LEFTIST DIARIO DE LISBOA ARTICLE BY

CORRESPONDENT A. PEREIRA DA SILVA CONNECTED
POSSIBLE U.S. TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH
THE RENEWAL OF THE LAJES BASE ACCORD. SAME CORRESPONDENT
DEVOTED SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS TO INCIDENT WHERE PORTUGUESE
PRESS BUS HELD UP BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE COMPLAINED
THAT THIS IS A CASE OF "DULY ACCREDITED AND IDENTIFIED
PROFESSIONALS PREVENTED FROM WORKING IN THEIR OWN
COUNTRY" AND TYPICAL OF TREATMENT DEALT OUT TO AZOREANS
ON THEIR OWN SOIL.

7. SOCIALIST REPUBLICA SPECULATED IN HEADLINES THAT
THE FUTURE OF LAJES WOULD BE ONE OF THE CENTRAL QUESTIONS
DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. REPUBLICA CARRIED A SPECIAL
ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE PRESS INCIDENT UNDER THE LEAD,
"NIXON'S SUPER SECURITY WALL ENDS UP CAUSING PROBLEMS
FOR PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS." LARGE CIRCULATION DIARIO
POPULAR IN SIGNED ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENT WHO MADE
TRIP COMPLAINED ABOUT ALLEGED ARROGANCE OF AMERICANS
ON TERCEIRA AND SAID RECEPTION GIVEN
PRESIDENT SPINOLA WAS INDICATION OF DEEP ROOTED
PORTUGUESE NATIONALISM. POST

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